

## THE PROPOSED CONVENTION HALL.

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BY SIR WILLIAM MEREDITH, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

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A movement has been recently organized by the Alumni Association to provide the University with a hall sufficiently large to afford accommodation for the annual commencement exercises, and for the various other meetings of an academic or social character which are held from time to time in connection with the work of the institution. The advantages of possessing such a building are obvious, and the necessity for making some adequate provision for these larger meetings is now felt with increasing force, on account of the great expansion of the University in recent years.

In the reconstruction of the buildings after the fire of 1890, the authorities found that the state of the finances did not warrant the restoration of the old Convocation Hall. Since that time the claims of the teaching departments have been so urgent as to tax to the utmost the resources of the University, and the authorities see no immediate prospect of providing a public hall out of the endowments or revenues. It would appear that, if such a building is to be erected in the near future, it must be done through private benefaction.

The Alumni Association has issued an appeal to the graduates, undergraduates and friends of the University to provide the necessary funds by subscription, and I take the liberty of warmly commending the project to your favorable consideration, and of urging you to aid in its realization by your personal contributions as well as by enlisting the interest and liberality of friends of the University.

It is a project in which the graduates of all faculties are interested, and with a united effort on the part of all it should not be difficult to collect the sum required, which has been estimated at \$50,000. I understand that the graduate members of the faculties have already subscribed \$6,000 of this amount, and I venture to hope that the generosity and self-sacrifice represented by this subscription will be appreciated and imitated by the graduates in general.

I trust that the movement may be crowned with abundant success, and that we may have, as its result, an edifice which will not only serve a most useful purpose, but will also stand as a monument to the loyalty and affection of our graduates.—  
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